(a) whether Express Way (EW) are being provided in Gujarat with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the Express Ways projects under construction in the State as on date;

(c) the funds released to the State for EWs during the last three years, year-wise, with details of EW constructed during the said period; and

(d) the steps being taken to complete the EW projects in the State within the time frame?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway, having a length of about 93.30 km. in the Gujarat State, stands sanctioned with the budgetary support of the Central Government. The physical progress of the project achieved is 62.42%.

(c) Funds released to the State are as under:—

1994-95	:	Rs. 20.85 crores
1995-96	:	Rs. 13.83 crores
1996-97	:	Rs. 11.33 crores

The Road works are standstill since December, 1994 due to contractual problems, while the Bridge works are in progress and are targetted to be completed by December, 1998.

(d) Efforts are being made to complete the balance work under B.O.T. (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis within the stipulated period of 1999-2000.

Accidents on Highways

900. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of total accidents on Highways of the country during 1994-95, 1996-97 till April;

(b) the factors of these accidents;

(c) the steps taken to avoid accidents so far; and

(d) the action taken on Ved Marwah Report on measures to reduce road accidents by public transport buses in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recommendations of IMO on bulk carriers

901. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many bulk carriers are of more than 20 years;

(b) how many of them have shipwrecked indicating of each accident; and

(c) the recommendations of IMO that have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) There are 39 bulk carriers of over 20 years age in the Indian Registry as on 31.3.1977.

(b) Only one Indian bulk carrier named m.v. Continental Lotus of 1964 has shipwrecked since 1991.

(c) The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has already adopted a Resolution No. 744(18) in respect of enhanced survey programmes for bulk carriers. This Resolution has been incorporated in the Solas Convention 1974 as Chapter XI and has come into force from 1.1.1996. Under the provision of this Resolution, all the Indian bulk carriers are being subjected to enhanced survey requirements